



MICHIGAN UNITED CONSERVATION CLUBS

Since 1937

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Uniting Citizens to Conserve, Protect and Enhance Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoor Heritage

SB 1187

Dear Legislator,

The undersigned conservation organizations urge you to support Senate Bill 1187 to restore Michigan's vital natural resources management process for making fish and wildlife conservation decisions with sound science.

Senate Bill 1187 restores the authority of the Natural Resources Commission to designate game species and issue fisheries orders with a requirement that they consider sound science, including a \$1 million appropriation to protect Michigan fisheries from aquatic invasive species like Asian carp, and the addition of wolves to the game species list.

In essence, it simply reauthorizes the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (SFWCA), a citizen-initiated law which both chambers of this Legislature passed in 2014 after grassroots conservation groups collected over 370,000 citizen signatures in support of it. The SFWCA had also included another section related to the funding of fish and wildlife management which allowed active duty military members to receive free hunting and fishing licenses. However, recently the Michigan Court of Appeals ruled that this provision was not closely enough related to the rest of the initiated law to be included in it, and invalidated the entire law, failing to apply Michigan's severability rule.

While this decision is likely to be appealed, Senate Bill 1187 simply reinstates the portions of the initiated law passed by the Legislature which the Court of Appeals did find were sufficiently related to be included in the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

Without passage of Senate Bill 1187, the State finds itself in the position of having already spent money on aquatic invasive species prevention it is not authorized to have spent, as the Court of Appeals decision has removed the statutory appropriation which authorized the spending. Additionally, it removed the authority of the Natural Resources Commission to issue orders related to fisheries management and to use the recommendations of professional biologists to determine whether wildlife species should be classified as game or not.

Therefore, the following conservation organizations urge you to immediately pass SB 1187 to continue, without costly interruption, Michigan's vital processes for making scientific decisions about the management of our state's fish and wildlife.

Michigan United Conservation Clubs
Michigan Bear Hunters Association
Michigan Hunting Dog Federation
U.P. Bear Houndsmen Association
Michigan Fox Hunters Association
Michigan State United Coon Hunters Association
Michigan Salmon and Steelhead
Fishermens Association

Safari Club International, Michigan chapters
National Wildlife Federation
Ducks Unlimited
Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association
U.P. Whitetails, Inc. of Marquette County
Straits Area Sportsmen's Club
Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance
Hammond Bay Area Anglers Association